

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06005 071118Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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R 070930Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8877
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 06005

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : MILI, PEPR, TW, US
SUBJECT : FUTURE OF NAMRU-2

REF: STATE 209466 (R 172209Z AUG 78)

1. FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF NAMRU-2 COMMANDER TO TAIPEI
WE CONSULTED WITH HIM CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF NAMRU-2
ON THE BASIS OF REFTEL AND PREVIOUS. THE DCM THEN
SAW MOFA VICE MINISTER CH'EN ON SEPTEMBER 5 AND GAVE HIM
A COPY OF THE DRAFT NOTE IN PARA 6 REFTEL CALLING FOR
EXTENSION OF NAMRU-2 UNTIL OCTOBER 14, 1979. WE ORALLY
REFERRED TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE USG HAD
DECIDED TO TERMINATE NAMRU-2 ON TAIWAN AND CITED THE
CONTINUING HEPATITIS PROJECT, THE ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE
FOR LOCAL PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, ETC. ZE NOTED THE
OUTSTANDING LEGACY OF NAMRU-2 IN CREATING A POOL OF
TRAINED TECHNICIANS, PRODUCING VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC PAPERS
OF CONTINUING UTILITY, AND FACILITATING US/ROC COOPERATION
IN MEDICAL RESEARCH. WE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ROC
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06005 071118Z

WOULD STUDY HOW BEST TO MAXIMIZE THE USEFULNESS OF THE
PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH NAMRU-2 WHO WOULD REMAIN IN
THE ROC.

2. CH'EN SAID HE WOULD PASS OUR DRAFT NOTE AND ORAL
COMMENTS TO THE MEDICAL EXPERTS CONCERNED FOR COMMENT.
HE NOTED THAT THE ROC MEDICAL COMMUNITY HELD IN

HIGH ESTEEM THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NAMRU AND WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SEE THE UNIT GO IN 1979. HE ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE NIH HEPATITIS PROJECT, AND WE NOTED THAT THE NIH CONTRACTOR WOULD NO DOUBT SOON BE NEGOTIATING WITH THE ROC MEDICAL AUTHORITIES.

3. NAMRU-2 WILL NOW INFORM TAIWAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF THE PROJECTED DEPARTURE IN OCTOBER 1979. WE SHALL WORK CLOSELY WITH NAMRU-2 AND THE ROC TO FACILITATE THE SMOOTH TRANSFER FROM TAIPEI TO MANILA, TO MINIMIZE FRICTION OVER THE CLOSURE, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE ROC TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES WHICH WILL REMAIN.

4. AS OPPORTUNITY OFFERS, WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S ENCOURAGING ANY INTERESTED MEDICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. (WHOSE FUTURE OPERATIONS ON TAIWAN WOULD PRESENT NO POLITICAL/NORMALIZATION PROBLEMS) TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH GROC TO EXPLORE CONTINUATION OF USEFUL NAMRU ACTIVITIES ON JOINT BASIS (EXCLUDING OF COURSE THOSE REQUIRED BY ONGOING NAMRU ACTIVITIES IN PHILIPPINES AND ELSEWHERE). UNGER

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